

Application No.: 09/836,625

Docket No.: 263742000201

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following list of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

## List of Claims:

Claims 1-42 (Cancelled)

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): A composition comprising substantially non-aggregated particulates in suspension and an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation of the particulates upon freezing and thawing.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, wherein the composition is frozen.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold, polystyrene latex and aluminum hydroxide.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 10% (w/v) trehalose.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 30% (w/v) trehalose.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A method of preventing aggregation during dehydration and rehydration of particulates in suspension comprising the steps of:

adding to a particulate suspension ~~at least~~ a final concentration between 10% and 50% (w/v) of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation upon rehydration; and

dehydrating the suspension.

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Claim 49 (Withdrawn): A method of preventing aggregation of particulates in suspension during freezing, comprising the steps of:

adding to the suspension an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation during freezing; and

freezing the suspension.

<sup>2</sup>  
Claim ~~50~~ (Previously Presented): The method according to claim ~~48~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold and polystyrene latex.

Claim 51 (Cancelled)

<sup>3</sup>  
Claim ~~52~~ (Previously Presented): The method according to claim ~~48~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 30% (w/v).

<sup>4</sup>  
Claim ~~53~~ (Previously Presented): The method according to claim ~~48~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the particulate is aluminum hydroxide and the amount of trehalose is at least 15% (w/v).

<sup>5</sup>  
Claim ~~54~~ (Previously Presented): The method according to claim ~~53~~<sup>4</sup>, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 30% (w/v).